



S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

## National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

# discussion forum

## How do publicly-funded institutions contribute to sustainable socio-economic development?

17-18 October 2023

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](http://www.nstf.org.za) is hosting a hybrid discussion forum in collaboration with the Science Councils and Statutory Bodies membership sector to consider the questions: '[How do publicly-funded institutions contribute to sustainable socio-economic development?](#)' The event takes place on 17-18 October 2023. The [Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector](#) currently represent about 20 organisations. The main topic, subtopics and speakers were planned by the representatives of the sector.

**Join the conversation and make your voice heard.**

**Click here to [register](#).**

**The key question is:** *How do research, development and innovation (RDI) in public sector institutions contribute to sustainable socio-economic growth in South Africa (SA)?*

SA is in a dire situation. Some of the factors that have contributed to the situation include corruption (poor governance), crime, disasters (COVID-19), poor market exchange and climate change impacts. Poverty is severe and politics are turbulent. According to Statistics SA the official unemployment rate is 32,9% (The 16 May 2023 Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS): "the number of employed persons increased by 258 000 to 16,2 million in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022). The social effects of the economic crisis are cumulative, leading to growing crime, poverty and domestic violence. Under these circumstances, it is hard for small businesses to be started and to survive, thereby killing the hope that small businesses will grow the economy and employment as envisaged by the National Development Plan (NDP).

**Questions and considerations:** Scientists and related professionals from various disciplines and stakeholders are invited to participate in discussing the following questions or themes:

1. What work do the publicly funded research institutions in SA do to contribute to generating or improving industries in SA?
2. What do these research institutions in SA do to generate small businesses?
3. What do they do to contribute to sustainable development in SA?
4. What role do these institutions play in developing the skills pipeline essential for the above-mentioned areas?

**Envisaged outcomes:** To formulate recommendations on ...

- a. Funding for public research institutions – what areas are in critical need of funding?
- b. What should the public and decision makers know about SA's publicly funded research institutions? i.e. what are the critical roles they play?

Outputs will be available on the [event page](#) of the NSTF website:

- Video recordings of speakers' presentations (subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Presentation slides (subject to the permission of the speakers)
- Speakers' biographies
- The recording/s of the online event
- A media release will be issued which summarises the most important issues and conclusions.
- NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles, and post on social media before, during and after the event

These will also be publicised on social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#) and [LinkedIn](#)).

#### **Delegate registration information**

- **Date:** 17-18 October 2023
- **Time:** 09:00-16:00 (Day 1) and 09:00-13:00 (Day 2)
- **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points:** CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions), as well as [ECSA](#) (Engineering Council of South Africa), in collaboration with the [IPET](#) (Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za).
- **Register (hybrid event):** You have the option to participate in-person at the venue in Pretoria (Gauteng), or online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email to confirm your registration, followed by a second email with the details of the event (Zoom link or the venue details). Click here to [register](#).

*Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested – both for the in-person and online events. Space at the in-person event is limited and admission is on a first come, first served basis.*

*Please note that if you do not register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.*

**About the NSTF:** The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community in SA. The [membership](#) consists of more than 130 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and give feedback to government and relevant authorities.

## About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF proSET membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the STEMulator.org which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF proSET)

### For more information

[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)

E-mail: [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za)

### Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct.

### Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers, as required by the South African Protection of Personal Information Act.

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